

**From:** Scott Greathouse  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/12/01 2:43pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am extremely concerned about the nature of the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. The settlement creates no real limitations on Microsoft's behavior and, in fact, may encourage the Microsoft monopoly by giving it ready access to young computer users. In the long term, this settlement will only prolong this matter.

The alternate remedy offered by those states opposed to the current settlement is excellent. However, I suspect, given Microsoft's consistent past record of disregard for legal authority, that this remedy would not be enough. The only way to truly restore competition in the operating system market, and those markets that it affects, is to require Microsoft to reveal the source code for the Windows operating system. For example, Microsoft could be required to include media containing the source code with every copy it sells. This would allow competing companies to write software that interacts with the Windows operating system and protocols. It would also allow programmers of other operating systems, like the Macintosh operating system or Linux, to make their operating systems compatible with Windows software like MS Office or Media Player.

Microsoft would have to un-bundle any product whose source code it wanted to keep secret. This would encourage them to un-bundle certain applications, such as Internet Explorer and Media Player, which have become the focus of concern for many people.

While Microsoft would complain loudly about this, such a remedy would not destroy any of Microsoft's intellectual property rights. It would still be illegal to copy or distribute MS Windows without paying for it. Software is distinctly different from other products in that the underlying functioning of a product can be completely obscured. With any other product, an analysis by a knowledgeable individual will reveal how the product works so that other products can be designed to work with it. However, if a device is patented, it is illegal to reproduce it without the permission of the patent owner. The same protection is given to software through copyright law.

The real reason that Microsoft is opposed to releasing the full source code for its operating system products is that it knows that such a remedy would force it to compete once again. The operating system monopoly that Microsoft maintains has been very profitable, so it is understandable that the company would be strongly opposed to the measure. Again, the remedy would be that when Microsoft sells a copy of the Windows operating system, that the full source code of it and any applications bundled with it (e.g., Internet Explorer and Media Player) be included on separate media (like

CD-ROMs). No other remedy would be necessary were this remedy implemented.

Thank you for your time,  
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